

# Emerald Bay Day Trips

**Paddle Route Distance: 9.9 Miles**

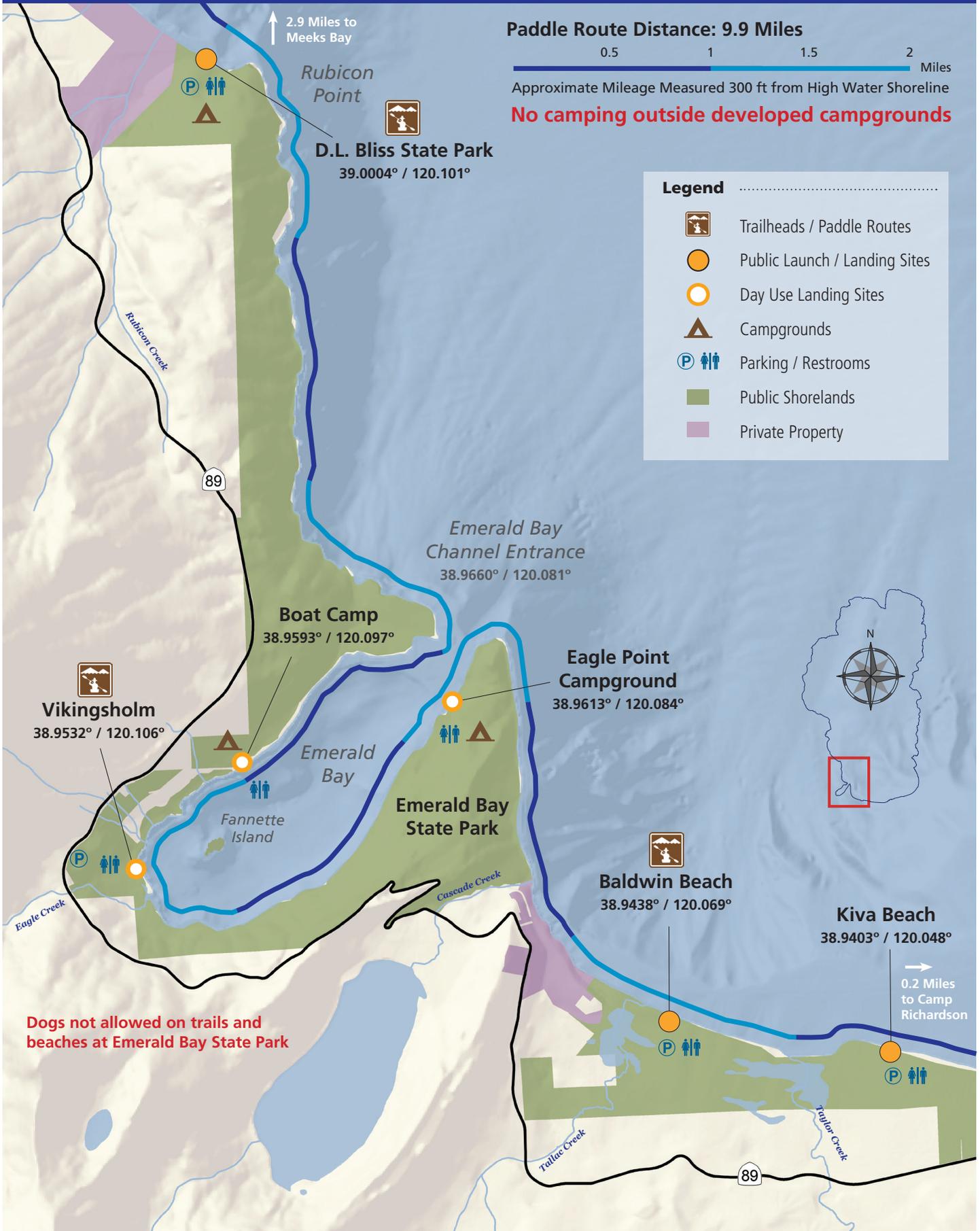
0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Approximate Mileage Measured 300 ft from High Water Shoreline

**No camping outside developed campgrounds**

## Legend

-  Trailheads / Paddle Routes
-  Public Launch / Landing Sites
-  Day Use Landing Sites
-  Campgrounds
-  Parking / Restrooms
-  Public Shorelands
-  Private Property



2.9 Miles to Meeks Bay

Rubicon Point

**D.L. Bliss State Park**  
39.0004° / 120.101°

Emerald Bay Channel Entrance  
38.9660° / 120.081°

**Boat Camp**  
38.9593° / 120.097°

**Vikingsholm**  
38.9532° / 120.106°

**Eagle Point Campground**  
38.9613° / 120.084°

**Emerald Bay State Park**

**Baldwin Beach**  
38.9438° / 120.069°

**Kiva Beach**  
38.9403° / 120.048°

0.2 Miles to Camp Richardson

89



LakeTahoeWaterTrail.org

**Emerald Bay** is one of the most photographed spots on earth and is the jewel of Lake Tahoe. Paddle close to towering mountains, Eagle Creek with its waterfalls, and the historic Vikingsholm castle. Emerald Bay is an excellent place to bird watch. Be on the lookout for bald eagles and osprey soaring above. Three launch sites are within 3 miles both north and south. A popular destination for commercial tour boats and motorized watercraft, conditions during the peak mid-day summer season are often congested and the water choppy. Always wear your life jacket and SUP leash, carry a flashlight and whistle, and check conditions before you head out at [www.LakeTahoeWaterTrail.org](http://www.LakeTahoeWaterTrail.org).



**Trailhead - Signage with Mapped Paddle Routes**

Public Lake Access Sites	Launch / Landing Site	Amenities
<p> <b>D.L. Bliss State Park (Lester Beach/Campground)</b> CA State Park on steep slopes offers seasonal camping and hiking with a wide diversity of plant and animal life.</p> <p> Lester Beach is an excellent launch for access to rugged shoreline with good osprey viewing.</p>	Yes	On-site seasonal day use parking often fills by mid-morning (fee area), campground with 24 sites in lowest loop accessible from the shore, restrooms, hiking trails (including Rubicon Trail to Emerald Bay), historic light house. Dogs are not allowed on the beach or on any trails. Dogs are only allowed in the campground and must be on a 6' leash. No drones allowed.
<p> <b>Emerald Bay Boat Camp</b> CA State Park boat-in campground offers the most intimate contact with Lake Tahoe of all shoreline campgrounds. It serves both motorized and non-motorized boaters.</p>	Landing ONLY	20 tent sites, public pier, restrooms, and nearby hiking trails to D.L. Bliss State Park, Eagle Falls, and the Cascade Creek area. Dogs are not allowed on any trails or roads into Emerald Bay, nor on the beach. Dogs are only allowed in the campground and must be on a 6' leash. No drones allowed.
<p> <b>Emerald Bay State Park Vikingsholm area</b> The main cultural attraction in Emerald Bay is the former summer residence of Lora Knight, the famous Vikingsholm castle. Docents offer seasonal tours of the house; interpretive trails throughout the grounds and the rich ecosystem diversity of the site are available year round. No dogs allowed on any beaches in Emerald Bay.</p> <p></p>	Landing ONLY	Historic residence, interpretive trails, picnic sites, public pier. Kayak & SUP rentals on the beach. Park at the Vikingsholm parking lot on Hwy 89 and walk a 1-mile paved path that descends 500 feet to the beach. Find nearby: hiking trails to D.L. Bliss State Park, Eagle Falls, and the Cascade Creek area. Dogs are not allowed on the beach or on any trails. No drones allowed.
<p> <b>Eagle Point Campground</b> CA State Park drive-in campground is only open mid-June to mid-September.</p>	Landing ONLY	Lower campground provides restrooms and access to hiking. Dogs are not allowed on the beach or on any trails in Emerald Bay. No drones allowed.
<p> <b>Baldwin Beach</b> The premiere launching spot for Emerald Bay access, this US Forest Service site also offers excellent bird and waterfowl watching. North of Tallac Creek is a boat-in beach popular for motorized water craft.</p> <p></p>	Yes	On-site seasonal facilities. On-site parking (fee area), restrooms, picnic sites, kayak & SUP rentals. Find nearby: hiking, birdwatching, biking trails.
<p> <b>Kiva Beach/Tallac Historic Site</b> Large expanse of public access beach near the US Forest Service Tallac Historic Site, Taylor Creek Stream Profile Chamber (look for the fall spawning Kokanee salmon run), and extensive wetlands offering good wildlife viewing.</p>	Yes	On-site parking seasonal, restrooms, picnic sites, trail links to nearby historic sites and Taylor Creek Visitor Center. Historic site contains restored summer homes of three prominent San Francisco families, including Valhalla, now home to an annual Art, Music and Theatre festival. In the wetlands, be aware of nesting birds and waterfowl; do not approach with boat or dogs.

> The wetlands in the South Shore, including the Taylor Creek Marsh, are remnants of an extensive wetland system and provide critical habitat for many bird and wildlife species. Bring binoculars and prepare to watch from sufficient distance to avoid disturbance. Taylor Creek Marsh is closed to dogs.

> Much of the area shown on this map offers diverse wildlife habitat; for some species the best habitat in the Tahoe Basin. Bald eagles and osprey nest along the shoreline here, the fall kokanee spawning run up Taylor Creek is impressive, and the marshes along Tallac and Taylor Creeks support many species of waterfowl. This diversity creates the excellent wildlife viewing opportunities in the area, and also brings special responsibilities for paddlers to help protect these resources. Dogs are not allowed on the beaches in the area. Do not approach wildlife closely and back off immediately at signs of agitation. Carry binoculars to get a better view without crowding.

> Tahoe Yellow Cress (TYC), a small plant that is a member of the mustard family, exists on isolated beaches in this area. TYC is an endemic plant found on sandy beaches at Lake Tahoe and no where else in the world. It is easy to miss and easy to trample, so make it a practice to avoid walking or pulling your boat over any shoreline vegetation.

> Both eagles and osprey build nests in and near Emerald Bay. These large masses of branches are easy to spot at the tops of dead trees near the shoreline. Don't approach too closely and if you want to watch, do so from a distance to avoid disturbance.